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The Connection

Morton Baptist Church

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Sunday Service: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: Wednesday at 12:00
www.facebook.com/MortonBaptistChurchNY
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Merry Christmas,

I truly hope you and your families are healthy this Christmas season. It is a time of the year in which we should stop and examine what it is that we are celebrating. Christmas, in this year of Covid, many feel the pressure to spend more to make up for the fact that they are not with family. I am all for giving presents and all of that but in this year, of all years, I think it is all the more important to focus on the reason we have Christmas at all. I urge you all on Christmas Day to, before you break open the things that you have given to others, to break open your Bible and read Luke 2.

Luke 2:10-12, "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."" (NIV).

This year, there is much we could say that has taken our minds, and fear is one of them. Here the angels say to the shepherds: do not be afraid. Now the context is different, but still I think they would say to us do not be afraid for behold a savior has been born. That savior is Jesus, and, in this world, we need saving. It is Jesus alone who has built the bridge that will allow us to come to salvation and that is the reason we celebrate this season of Christmas. I say to you all, place your thinking on this. Don't let the world drown it out. Stand in the beautiful call of God to life and that life started in Bethlehem 2,000+ years ago. See the hope that has come in Emmanuel and know that God is with us if we will stand with Him. Merry Christmas from our family to yours.

Christmas is a season to be a blessing. So, be a blessing to someone else this Christmas season.

God blessing on you all,

Pastor Steve

11-4-2020 TRUSTEE MEETING

In attendance: Dale Rowley, Tom Ingraham, Carol Duerr, Frank Hoffman, Dan Cater, Gary House, Pastor Steve Worrall, Marilynn Kundrata

Meeting was opened with prayer at 7 pm.

*The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Frank made a motion to approve, Dan seconded.

*The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. The Endowment Fund is down due to the market. All bills have been paid, and all accounts are on budget. The Harvest Dinner made over $1,200, and the Life Ladies 50/50 raffle raised $71, which was donated to the Youth Group. $150 was raised by the congregation to donate to CURE in lieu of the CURE Picnic. The $250 budgeted for the CURE Picnic was also donated to CURE. Dan made a motion to approve, Frank seconded.

*We received a bill from Rick Seaman for mowing. He graciously reduced the cost of mowing while the church was closed due to the pandemic. He also stained the deck by the back door without charge.

*Sandy Strasenburgh requested to use the hall on Monday mornings to play dominoes with friends. They will make a donation for the use of the hall.

*There is a broken window in MacQueen Hall. Dan will look into having the window repaired. He will also get quotes for new windows for the hall.

*It was suggested that we place Plexiglas in front of the choir loft as an additional precaution to spreading Covid. After discussion it was decided that it would be ineffective and an unnecessary expense.

*The boiler is leaking. Tom will contact Hometowne Energy to have them look at it.

*The new lighting has been installed in the front of the church. The sign painting and updating will be completed soon.

*The cross above the front door will be painted the same color as the doors.

*Dale has acquired a bench to put outside the front door.

*Pastor Steve and Kaitlyn Curtis are in the process of updating the website.

*Dale and Marilynn will work on the budget for 2021.

*We will resume collecting offertory starting 11/8/2020 instead of using collection boxes.

Meeting was closed with prayer at 7:50 pm.

The next meeting will be on December 2nd at 7 pm.

December Birthdays:

2nd Austin Wakefield
3rd Angela Cater
10th Katarina Wlosinski
17th Todd Young
24th Frank Hoffman
25th Alice Richardson
28th Ann Bartel
29th Novalee Johncox
Olivia Johncox

December Anniversaries:

28th David & Barbara Higgs

Kitchen Item:

The kitchen item for December is:
Disinfectant Wipes

UPCOMING EVENTS

Church & Tree Decorating

After the service on **Sunday, December 6th**, we will be decorating the church and tree for Christmas. Due to Covid-19, we are unfortunately unable to host our annual Stone Soup Supper. Deacons will provide store-bought beverages and cookies.

Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve service will be held at the church on **December 24th at 7:00 PM**. Come listen and enjoy the Christmas story told by Pastor Steve and the choir in a musical contata.

Beef on Weck Dinner

Our annual Beef on Weck dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 20th** with take-outs only. Pre-sale tickets may be available. More information to follow.

ATTENTION!

Questions

Pastor Steve is asking for the congregation to begin thinking of difficult issues or ideas in the Bible, explanations of stories or events in the Bible, or any questions you may have. We will be addressing these questions in the new year.

Sunday School

We are in need of volunteers to teach Sunday school for both the elementary and high school levels. The program we are using includes guided materials and teacher books. If you would like to be a teacher and be added to the rotation, please see Brad Miller.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is again happening in MacQueen Hall following worship, for those who are comfortable joining in. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for weekly volunteers to make the coffee & provide snacks. Help cleaning up after coffee hour is also appreciated. Thank you for helping!

Kevin Guest House

Dale and Lisa Rowley's niece is heading a fundraiser through a local charity, Kevin Guest House. The following is more information from their niece:

KGH provides affordable housing and warm meals to guests and their families traveling to Buffalo for extended medical treatments. They rely on fundraising events, which have been significantly impacted due to Covid-19 restrictions. I teamed up with a local bakery, Two Wheels, to create the Cookie Room fundraiser. We are trying to raise $5,000 to cover the cost of one guest room for all of 2021! We're doing this through direct donations and the sale of Gingerbread Kits ($5 from each kit gets donated). My law firm is donating cookie themed decorations for the new room including a bedspread, lamp, and clock covered in cookies! Any level of participation would be greatly appreciated! Every $5 counts! Thank you so much for your consideration. Here's the link: https://kevinguesthouse.com/gingerbread-cookie-kits/

Christmas Wreath Sale

Lauren Miller is selling Christmas Wreaths for $20 from Partyka Farms. Please see Lauren if you would like to purchase one.

Kendall Food Cupboard

Julia Ingraham is collecting monetary donations on behalf of the Kendall Food Cupboard. All donations help families in need during the holidays.

In and Around the Community

Our final profit from the Harvest Dinner was $1,280! What an awesome accomplishment for such different circumstances!

Please keep Alli Worrall's sister, Jen, in your prayers as she will be undergoing medical procedures in the next six months.

Pastor Steve's mother was taken to the hospital in early November due to a reoccurring infection. In addition, Pastor Steve's parents, brothers, one brother's girlfriend, and sister were all positive for the coronavirus. They are all doing okay and his siblings have since been cleared to return to work.

Please remember Dale and Lisa Rowley's step-nephew in your prayers. He has cancer and was in critical care in Virginia. He needed chemotherapy and dialysis. However, he is now home and feeling better but has a long road to recovery. He continues to need chemo, but no longer needs dialysis since his kidney function is improving.

Marilynn Kundrata's niece, Vicky, has been diagnosed with breast cancer. In addition, Marilynn's sister-in-law's brother, Kenny, has been given days to live due to cancer. Please keep the family in your prayers.

John Cook's aunt, Connie, (his mother's sister) is suffering from health issues.

Ann White's sister-in-law, Sheryl, suffered a minor stroke. We're thrilled to hear that she seems to have made a full recovery!

Robert Cook was almost hit by a car while walking on the sidewalk where he lives in Chicago. The vehicle hit outdoor furniture which was pushed into Robert. He suffered a broken toe, and his phone was damaged from the impact. We're grateful it wasn't worse!

We're happy to hear that Natalie Cook has made a full recovery after having her tonsils removed!

Congratulations to Todd and Eileen Young's niece, Rebecca Banker, for graduating from the National Guard Reserves on November 20th!

Bev Olney celebrated her birthday in style this year! Thank you to everyone who took the time to call or send a card to wish Bev a very happy birthday.

Pastor Jim and Alice Richardson's niece, Donna Jean, has been diagnosed with cancer.

The Life Ladies met on Sunday, November 15th for Sha's Factory. Each member brought items to pack bags for families in need through Life Solutions.

Frank Hoffman's brother and sister-in-law are doing much better after their battles with Covid-19. His sister-in-law flatlined three times during treatment in the hospital and survived each time. She was released to a rehabilitation center after being completely rundown physically and is now receiving PT every other day at home. His brother luckily did not have as bad a case. However, he became severely dehydrated, and his kidneys became infected which then created the symptoms of full Covid. He was treated for one week and released from the hospital. He's had kidney disease for a number of years, and his kidneys have functioned at about 60%. His specialist believes there has been little to no further damage due to this last dehydration and infection. Both are now home and working on getting their strength back. Further proof of the power of prayer!

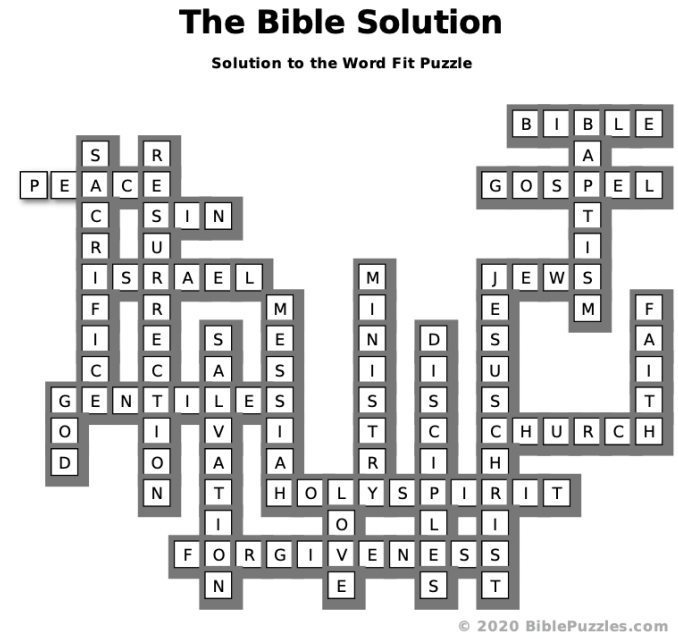
Congratulations to Youth Group member, Taylor Holzschuh, for being accepted into Keuka College and receiving a scholarship!

Please continue to remember Dale and Lisa Rowley's son and his family in El Paso, TX in your prayers. The city continues to suffer greatly from Covid-19.

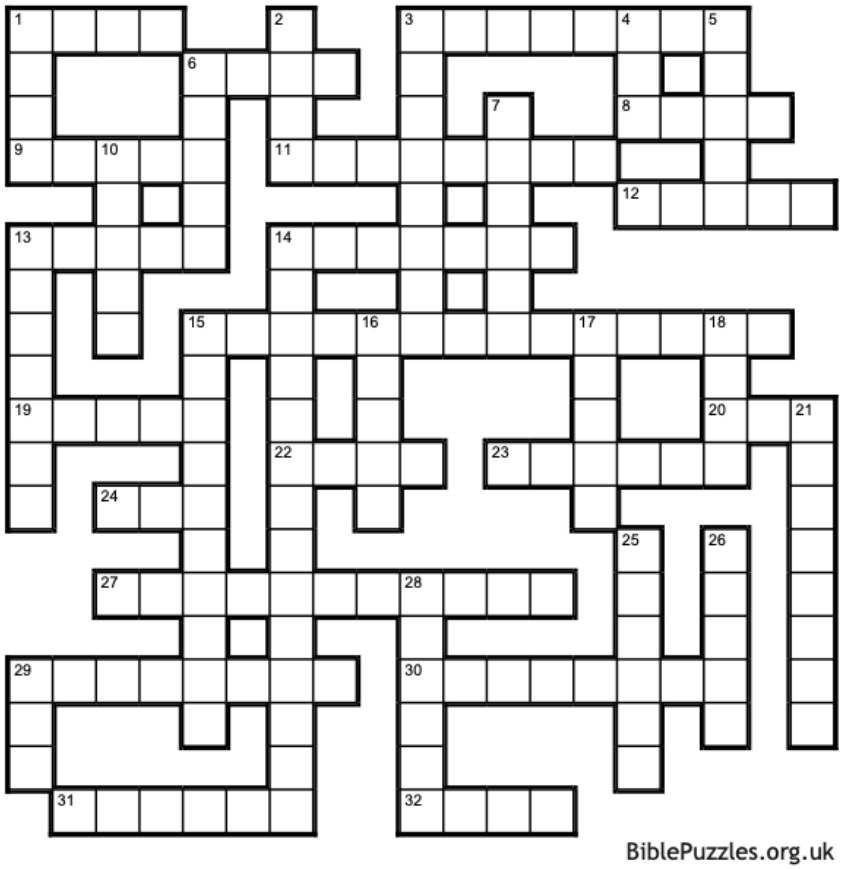
Ralph Olney completed his 81st round of chemo. It's been nine years since his stem cell transplant. Ralph's story never fails to warm our hearts!

We continue to remember in prayer: EhLaw Chaw & Frank Hoffman, Pam Dutton, Chap Fabry, Helen Mattern, Rosemary Mintz, Ralph & Bev Olney, Pastor Jim & Alice Richardson, Sally Shiffer, and the youth group. Cards, notes, and visits are always welcome.

November Bible Puzzle Solution



Christmas Crossword



Across

1 Transportation for going over snow (4)

3 Mixture of seasoned ingredients (8)

6 Baby's bed (4)

8 Period from December 24th to January 6th (4)

9 Red-breasted bird (5)

11 Twelve days after Christmas (8)

12 Alcoholic drink normally served in a bowl (5)

13 Jolly (5)

14 News (7)

15 Goes with the turkey (9,5)

19 A type of tree used at Christmas (5)

20 The colour of Santa's hat (3)

22 ____ log; traditonally burned at Christmas (4)

23 Sanctified (6)

24 Cured leg of pork (3)

27 Christmas song (6,5)

29 Found under the Christmas tree? (8)

30 Grace (8)

31 Snow falls in this season (6)

32 Given at Christmas (4)

Down

1 Bright celestial body (4)

2 Christmas tree type (4)

3 Take aback (8)

4 No room here! (3)

5 Elvish colour (5)

6 Sweets; flavoured sugar (5)

7 Container usually found in a stable (6)

10 Beginning of life (5)

13 Amazing event (7)

14 Written after Christmas? (5,3,6)

15 Formal events (10)

16 Ring out from churches (5)

17 Accompaniment for food (5)

18 Printed or written greeting (4)

21 Month in which Christmas falls (8)

25 Nature of God (6)

26 One was born in Bethlehem (5)

28 Sweetened milk drink, with eggs and alcohol (6)

29 Pastry dish (3)

December 2020

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." - Isaiah 7:14

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Bible Study @ 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 pm Trustee Meeting @ 7:00 pm	3	4 Youth Group 7:00-9:00 pm	5
6 Communion Sunday Church/Tree decorating	7 Tops 4:00-7:00 pm	8	9 Bible Study @ 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 pm	10	11 Youth Group 7:00-9:00 pm	12
13	14 Tops 4:00-7:00 pm	15	16 Bible Study @ 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 pm	17	18 Youth Group 7:00-9:00 pm	19
20	21 **Winter Solstice** Tops 4:00-7:00 pm	22	23 *Newsletter items due* Bible Study @ 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 pm	24 **Christmas Eve** Christmas Eve Service @ 7:00	25 **Christmas Day**	26
26	27 Tops 4:00-7:00 pm	28	29 Bible Study @ 12:00 pm Choir Rehearsal @ 6:00 pm	30	31 **New Year's Eve** Youth Group 7:00-9:00 pm	

Morton Baptist Church
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December 2020